

REMARKS

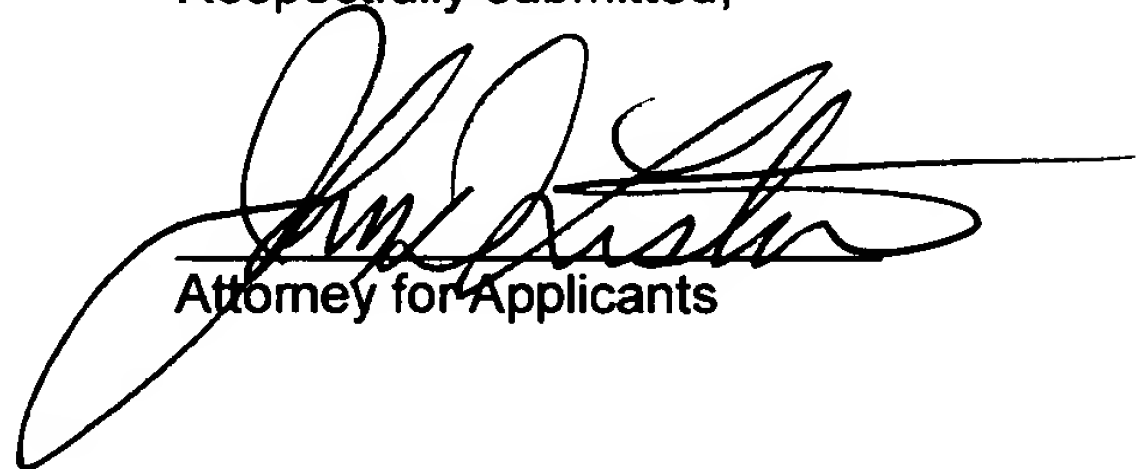
The resilient fibrous insulation batt of the subject invention consists essentially of a single blanket of resilient fibrous insulation having no folds therein. The blanket has a length, a width and a thickness. The length of the blanket is a longest dimension of the blanket; the thickness of the blanket is a shortest dimension of the blanket; and the width of the blanket is a dimension of the blanket intermediate the length and the thickness of the blanket in magnitude. The blanket has first and second major surfaces that, with respect to each other, lie in substantially parallel planes and that each extend the length and width of the blanket. The blanket has first and second lateral surfaces that, with respect to each other, lie in substantially parallel planes, that extend for the length of the blanket, and that extend between the major surfaces of the blanket. The blanket has first and second end surfaces that, with respect to each other, lie in substantially parallel planes, that extend the width of the blanket, and that extend between the major surfaces of the blanket. The fibers of the blanket are randomly oriented and entangled together and predominately lie in planes that extend substantially perpendicular to the planes of the major surfaces and the end surfaces of the blanket and substantially parallel to the planes of the lateral surfaces of the blanket to facilitate a widthwise compression of the blanket.

Claims 1, 2, 4, and 5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Brandt et al (WO 94/16162). Brandt et al disclose a mineral fiber insulating web that is formed by a series of insulating web sections that are folded back and forth upon each other, transversely to the length of the insulating web, and bonded together to orient the fibers generally perpendicular to the first longitudinal direction of insulating web thus formed. Unlike the insulating web of Brandt et al, the resilient fibrous insulation batt of the subject invention is made of a single blanket of fibrous insulation that has no folds therein. Without being folded, the fibers of the blanket of the subject invention are randomly oriented and entangled together and predominately lie in planes that extend substantially perpendicular to the planes of the major surfaces and the end surfaces of the blanket and substantially parallel to the planes of the lateral surfaces of the blanket to facilitate a widthwise compression of the blanket. Such a structure is neither shown nor suggested by Brandt et al. In fact, Brandt et al teach that an insulating web or blanket must be folded to obtain a fiber orientation perpendicular to the

first longitudinal direction of their insulating web. In view of the amendments to the claims and for the reasons set forth above, claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 patentably distinguish the resilient fibrous insulation batt of the subject invention over Brandt et al. Accordingly, the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Brandt et al and the allowance of claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 is solicited.

Claims 3 and 6 to 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brandt et al. in view of Michelsen (U.S. Patent No. 5,765,318). Brandt et al disclose a mineral fiber insulating web that is formed by a series of insulating web sections that are folded back and forth upon each other, transversely to the length of the insulating web, and bonded together to orient the fibers generally perpendicular to the first longitudinal direction of insulating web thus formed. While, Michelsen discloses that a fibrous nonwoven insulation may be made from glass fibers and polymeric fibers and that the fibers of the insulation may be held together by entanglement, Michelsen does not otherwise supplement the disclosure of Brandt et al. Accordingly, claims 3 and 6 to 9 are patentable for the same reasons discussed above in connection with the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 and the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 3 and 6 to 9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over by Brandt et al in view of Michelsen is requested and the allowance of claims 3 and 6 to 9 is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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